

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00547 012356Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /097 W

-----081488 020003Z /66

R 011909Z MAR 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1284

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV PBOR MILI ET SO CU

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN TIDBITS

1. SWEDISH EMBASSY REPORTED, FEBRUARY 28, THAT CUBAN WORKER
IN MARIEL CEMENT PLANT STATED THAT SHIP CARRYING TANKS
(ON DECK) DEPARTED PORT IN RECENT WEEKS FOR AFRICA.
(COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD REPORTS OF CUBANS
TRANSFERRING HEAVY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO AFRICA. IF REPORT
IS TRUE, WHICH IS UNCERTAIN, IT COULD REFLECT CERTAIN
LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CUBAN ACTIVITIES
IN AFRICA. DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE VERACITY OF
THIS REPORT WOULD BE WELCOME.)

2. AMCIT, DEPARTING CUBA ON USG REPATRIATION FLIGHT,
FEBRUARY 28, STATED THAT VACCINATION CLINIC IN NUEVITAS
(PRESUMABLY LAST WEEK) WAS FULL OF MILITARY PERSONNEL
PREPARING TO DEPART FOR AFRICA. SOURCE STATED THAT
A NUMBER OF SHIPS HAVE DEPARTED FROM NUEVITAS IN RECENT
WEEKS BOUND FOR AFRICA.

3. CUBAN SOURCE, CALLED UP LAST WEEK BY MILITARY UNIT
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REGISTRATION CENTER, INDICATED, MARCH 1, THAT THERE WAS
LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE ALSO RESPONDING TO CALL-UP
PRESENT AT REGISTRATION CENTER, FEBRUARY 28. MANY PEOPLE,
SOURCE SAID, APPEARED TO BE OVER FORTY YEARS OF AGE.
(COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF RENEWED CALL-UP,
PERHAPS TO REPLACE PERSONNEL STATIONED IN CUBA WHO HAVE
DEPARTED FOR AFRICA. SOURCE, WHO IS FORTY YEARS OLD AND

WITHOUT PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE, SAID THAT RESERVISTS - A TERM WHICH HE APPLIED TO BOTH THOSE WITH AND WITHOUT PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE - EXPECT TO RECEIVE SOME 45 DAYS OF MILITARY TRAINING BEFORE COMMENCING REGULAR DUTIES. UP TO SIX OR SEVEN YEARS AGO, SOURCE ADDED, "RESERVISTS" RECEIVED REGULAR WEEKEND MILITARY TRAINING AND WERE SUBJECTED TO SURPRISE NIGHT-TIME MOBILIZATION EXERCISES. FREQUENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF THIS TYPE FOR BROAD MASS OF RESERVISTS, HOWEVER, HAVE LAPSED, SOURCE SAID. WE ARE TOLD HOWEVER, THAT ANNUAL TRAINING OF 15TO 45 DAYS IS STILL GIVEN TO THOSE WITH PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE.

4. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY, MARCH 1, REPORTS THAT CONSTRUCTION ON THREE PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING PLANTS IN HAVANA (SAN JOSE), CIENFUEGOS, AND SANTIAGO, DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY JULY 26, HAS FALLEN SERIOUSLY BEHIND SCHEDULE IN RECENT DAYS DUE TO FAILURE OF WHOLE CUBAN CONSTRUCTION BRIGADES TO APPEAR AT WORK. YUGOSLAV FOREMEN BELIEVE THIS IS DUE TO CUBAN NEED TO SHIFT CONSTRUCTION BRIGADES TO COVER TASKS USUALLY PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS MOBILIZED FOR AFRICAN SERVICE. YUGOSLAVS INTEND TO RAISE THIS PROBLEM WITH CUBANS.

2. YUGOSALV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE, MARCH 1, INDICATED THAT SWEDISH-BUILT ALFA-LAVAL DAIRY PLANT HAS FAILED TO FUNCTION AT PLANNED PRODUCTION LEVELS IN RECENT WEEKS BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE MILK DELIVERIES. YUGOSLAV
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WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THIS IS PROBLEM OF MILK PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION. (COMMENT: THERE APPEARS TO BE CHEESE SHORTAGE IN LOCAL STORES. WE ARE UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER SHORTAGE EXTENDS TO MILK. SOME CUBAN SOURCES HAVE COMMENTED ON SHORTAGES BUT HAVE BLAMED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AT ALFA-LAVAL PLANT. GRANMA, MARCH 1, INDICATES, PERHAPS AS MEASURE OF COMPENSATION, THAT PRICE OF BUTTER IS BEING LOWERED FROM 3 TO 2 PESOS PER POUND UNTIL MAY 31. GRANMA ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THERE HAS BEEN TEMPORARY SHORTAGES OF BUTTER IN SOME LOCATIONS BECAUSE OF LACK OF REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT, BUT THAT STARTING IN MARCH SPECIAL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT GOOD-QUALITY BUTTER IS AVAILABLE ON TIMELY BASIS.)
GLASSMAN

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Message Attributes

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